

# County of Fresno

## Solid Waste Quarterly

### A County-Wide Approach to Waste Management

#### America Recycles Day Celebration

America Recycles Day (ARD), celebrated annually on November 15, was started in 1997 by Vice President Al Gore. The purpose of ARD is to bring attention to recycling programs nationwide and to increase awareness about the importance of buying products made from recycled materials.



National sponsors supporting this year's ARD include Home Depot, the U.S. Postal Service, Waste Management of America, and the U.S. Environmental Protection

Agency. An event, culminating a week of activities celebrating ARD, is being planned for Saturday, November 20, 1999, at the two Home Depot stores located in Fresno and Clovis. Organizations that are working with the County to sponsor the local event include Habitat for Humanity, the City of Fresno Recycling Program, and Waste Management of America. Residents will be encouraged to visit either Home Depot store to dispose of their old tools. The tools will be collected by volunteers from Habitat for Humanity and "recycled" by using them in their program to build low-cost houses throughout the County. Information tables will be set up at each store where participants can gather information about sponsoring agencies and their programs. A packet containing recyclable materials will be available for children to use in making a Thanksgiving art project.

To further promote ARD, a display will be set up at the main branch of the Fresno County library featuring products made from recycled materials. From November 15 through November 19, an information table will also be set up in the lobby of the County Plaza building. Educational materials will be offered about ARD and solid waste management, and daily drawings will be held for environmentally friendly prizes.

managers and vehicle maintenance personnel from both local government and private businesses. The purpose of the seminar was to increase awareness about re-refined oil, correct the misconceptions about the product, and provide information regarding the benefits of using re-refined oil.

Mikeal Chico, of the City of Fresno's Solid Waste Management Division, began the morning's program by delivering a brief welcome and introduction, followed by the airing of a video which provided an overview of re-refined oil. Following the video, seminar participants heard presentations by Ben Torres of Safety-Kleen Corporation and Tim McKee of 76 Lubricants Oil Company. Mr. Torres, whose company operates one of only three oil re-refineries in North America, explained the re-refining process. Mr. McKee, who is the marketer sales manager for 76 Lubricants Oil Company, spoke on the distribution and marketing of re-refined oil. In addition, Ron Wheeler, fleet manager for the City of Clovis, and Richard Mehelic, fleet maintenance supervisor for the City of Fresno, discussed their experiences in switching to re-refined motor oil in the operation and maintenance of their fleets. A question and answer session followed the presentations and panel discussion. A drawing for some great door prizes was held at the end of the seminar. Many participants lingered afterwards to ask individual questions of the presenters and to gather additional information about re-refined oil and used oil recycling from City and County staff.

If you are interested in attending a re-refined oil workshop in the future, call Don Chapin at 262-4259.

#### RMDZ Program Update

Some exciting changes to the Recycling Market Development Zone (RMDZ) program will become effective on January 1, 2000. These changes include:



recycling-based businesses. The California Capital Access Program and the Jobs Through Recycling Program (Alameda County) will be the first partners making their incentives available through the RMDZ program.

For more information, call Leslie Kline at (559) 262-4259.

## Recycle Ben Says . . .



Time flies! We will soon be carving turkeys and preparing for the holidays. Twenty-eight billion pounds of edible food is thrown away each year during the time between Thanksgiving and New Year's. Here are a few suggestions from the "Use Less Stuff Report" for enjoying the

holidays without being wasteful:

- ◆ Plan your meals ahead of time and use lists. Buy for a specific number of guests, and no more!
- ◆ Now's the time to find those leftover turkey recipes. Put them somewhere easy to remember.
- ◆ Take smaller portions and then go back for seconds if still hungry.
- ◆ Send guests away with extras packed in reusable deli and dairy containers. Put the containers in the grocery bags you used to lug all the fixings home.
- ◆ Donate excess food to local food banks. Call Foodchain at (800) 845-3008 for local programs.



For a list of holiday waste prevention ideas, call Susan Schneider at 262-4259.

## Landfill Tour

On September 17, 1999, members of the Central California Sierra Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) toured the American Avenue Landfill. A general membership meeting and luncheon was held at the Radisson Hotel in Fresno, followed by a trip to the Landfill site near Kerman. The guided tour was conducted by Francis Coward, Landfill Operations Manager, and included a look at the Landfill's computerized scale system,

leachate collection system, liner construction, heavy equipment, and air injection system. SWANA members found the tour to be educational and informative. Questions about the Landfill can be directed to Francis Coward at 262-4259.

## "Buying Recycled" Forum

On November 7, 1999, a satellite forum entitled, "Buying Recycled: The Real Story About Cost, Availability, and Quality" will be presented by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Buy Recycled Business Alliance. The forum is being presented to provide information on the following topics: 1) how to purchase quality, competitively priced, recycled-content products, and 2) how to start or expand a successful "buying recycled" program.

For a description of the forum's agenda and presenters, visit the U.S. EPA's web site at [www.epa.gov/wastewise/wwwsf](http://www.epa.gov/wastewise/wwwsf).

## ✓ Mark Your Calendars

**November 2, 1999.** Fresno County Chamber of Commerce Business After-Hours Event. 5:30-8 p.m.

**November 11, 1999.** Veteran's Day. County offices closed, including November 12 for temporary office closure.

**November 15, 1999.** America Recycles Day.

**November 20, 1999.** America Recycles Day celebration at Home Depot stores in Fresno and Clovis. 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.

**November 25-26, 1999.** Thanksgiving holiday. County offices closed.

*The "Solid Waste Quarterly" is produced by the County of Fresno Planning & Resource Management Department, Resources Division, to provide information about issues related to AB 939, the Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989.*